

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6041
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4168

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, MO, GW, FI
SUBJ: MOROCCAN DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

1. ON JUNE 13, KING HASSAN APPOINTED ABDELAZIZ BENNANI SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE KING ALSO NAMED BANNANI'S PREDECESSOR IN THE FONMIN'S NUMBER THREE SPOT, ABDELHAKIM IRAQI, AMBASSADOR TO WEST GERMANY AND FINLAND. BENNANI HAD LONG BEEN RUMORED TO BECOME SECRETARY GENERAL WHILE IRAQI, A HOLDOVER FROM THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, HAD BEEN INACTIVE SINCE THE APPOINTMENT OF FONMIN BOUCETTA IN OCTOBER, 1977.

2. ABDELAZIZ BENNANI, BENNANI, 50, IS A CAREER DIPLOMAT WHO HAS SERVED AS MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR TO THE IVORY COAST (6/67-1/71), ZAIRE (2/71-10/74) AND POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA (10/75-6/78). IN ADDITION, HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77 IN 1975.

3. BORN JULY 16, 1928 IN RABAT, BENNANI RECEIVED HIS
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DEGREE IN LAW AND WORKED IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR BEFORE BECOMING CHIEF OF CABINET IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, TOURISM AND MERCHANT MARINE IN DECEMBER 1956. IN SEPTEMBER 1959, HE BECAME ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AT GOM EMBASSY IN ROME. HE THEN SERVED SUCCESSIVELY IN MADRID (1962-65), BRUSSELS (1965-66), AND BONN (1966-67), WHEN HE BECAME AMBASSADOR TO THE IVORY COAST. IN BETWEEN

HIS AMBASSADORIAL POSTS, BENNANI SPENT A YEAR (1971-72) AS DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION DIVISION IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THOUGH EMBOFFS FOUND BENNANI FRIENDLY AND APPROACHABLE DURING HIS 1971-72 STINT IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, HE WAS REPORTEDLY NOT VERY EFFECTIVE AND LEFT MOST OF HIS WORK TO HIS STAFF. HIS CURRENT APPOINTMENT CAN BE ATTRIBUTED LARGELY TO HIS LONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ISTIQLAL PARTY HEADED BY FONMIN BOUCETTA.

4. ABDELHAKIM IRAQI. ALSO KNOWN AS ABDELHAKIM LARAKI, IRAQI WAS BORN IN FEZ IN 1935. HE STUDIED CLASSICAL ARABIC AND ADMINISTRATION BEFORE JOINING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN 1959. AFTER SERVING SUCCESSIVELY AS A MEMBER OF THE MINISTER'S CABINET AND THEN DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT, IRAQI WAS APPOINTED FIRST SECRETARY AT THE GOM EMBASSY IN MADRID. THE AMBASSADOR, AHMED KARAKI, WAS A DISTANT RELATIVE. THEY DEVELOPED A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS SINCE GREATLY AIDED IRAQI'S CAREER. IN 1966, IRAQI SERVED AS CONSUL GENERAL IN ORAN, ALGERIA. WHEN AHMED LARAKI BECAME FOREIGN MINISTER IN 1967, IRAQI RETURNED TO RABAT TO SERVE AS FIRST COUNSELOR AT THE MFA AND THEN CHIEF OF THE MINISTER'S CABINET. WHEN LARAKI BECAME PRIME MINISTER IN 1969, IRAQI WENT TO LIEGE AS CONSUL GENERAL. IN 1973 HE WAS PROMOTED TO MINISTER/PLENI-POTENTIARY. WHEN AHMED LARAKI AGAIN BECAME FOREIGN CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTER IN 1974, IRAQI WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF HIS CABINET AND THEN MFA SECRETARY GENERAL. IRAQI HAS PARTICIPATED IN MANY MULTILATERAL CONFERENCES AND LED MOROCCO'S DELEGATION TO THE 21ST UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1971.

5. IRAQI IS REPORTEDLY EASY TO DEAL WITH AND A THOROUGH THOUGH NOT BRILLIANT WORKER. HE SPEAKS FLUENT FRENCH BUT LITTLE ENGLISH. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS THREE CHILDREN.

6. FOR PRAGUE AND WARSAW. POST WOULD APPRECIATE ANY IMPRESSION AND INFORMATION YOU HAVE ON BENNANI.
ANDERSON

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